



## MINORITY HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Co-CHAIRS: *Aleatha Dickerson, Julie Rawlings*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mary Falvey, RN, Jennifer Chaves, Deborah Correia Morales, Gloria Hincapie, Emma Simmons, MD, Maria Barros, RN, Elvys Ruiz, Yvette Mendez, Darrell Thorpe, Vinnie Velazquez, Deborah Perry, Joseph Diaz, MD, Reginald Tucker-Seeley, ScD, Lara Watkins, PhD

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**MHAC MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**Present:** Julie Rawlings, Reginald Tucker-Seeley, Mary Falvey, Darrell Thorpe, Gloria Hincapie, Deborah Perry, Correia Morales, Emma Simmons, Helena Friedmann, Lara Watkins, Yvette Mendez, Maria Barros

**Requested Absence:** Aleatha Dickerson, Jennifer Chaves

**Unexcused Absent:** Vinnie Velazquez, Joseph Diaz

**HEALTH Staff:** Rilwan Feyisitan (Chief of Minority Health), Jenn DeBoer (Minority Health Promotion Specialist), Helen Drew (Associate Director of Health Department), Carrie Bridges (Health Disparities and Access to Care Team Lead)

**Guest:** Cristiana Ordonez, RN, Home Care Nurse Manager at Sarrana Home Care.

### PROCEEDINGS:

- Meeting called to order at 3:05 P.M. by Co-Chair, Julie Rawlings.
- (Last month's Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010) meeting minutes was approved.

### Health Promotion Specialist, Jenn DeBoer update:

Currently, there are two bodies of Medical Interpreters' Certification program, namely:

IMIA: International medical interpreters Association

CCHI: Certification Commission for Healthcare interpreters

To date, medical interpreters are not required or mandated to be certified by any certifying bodies.

DOH, Health Disparities and Access to Care team, is also working to add stronger legislative language for Healthcare providers to adhere to CLAS standards. The trajectory of this initiative will hopefully raise the awareness of Healthcare Providers to hire qualified and competent medical interpreters.

### Setting 2011 Priorities, led by Carrie Bridges, Health Disparities and Access to Care, Team Lead:

Priorities of MHAC in 2010:

#### Priority 1

Promote health equity and continue to integrate elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities across all Health Department programs by providing information, education and training to Rhode Island communities on health indicators, health outcomes, and social determinants of health.

#### Priority 2

Continue supporting the implementation of the CLAS Standards in health care settings across Rhode Island.

#### Priority 3

Promote the translation of research into practice to help the Department of Health and its partners stay focused on health equity.

MHAC will look at the above 2010 priorities to create a "To Do List."

The "To Do List" will determine action steps to either extend the above priorities to 2011 or to remove and create new priorities for the next coming year.

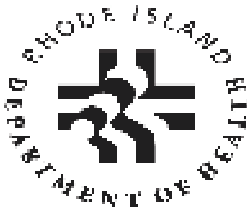
The yardstick to measure the success of 2010 MHAC priorities is to gauge the level of competencies not just among MHAC members, but staff of HEALTH and minority communities.

The Data Subcommittee is charged with defining and identifying mechanisms to measure 2010 MHAC goals set within the above three priorities.

The mechanism recommended by the data subcommittee should employ the S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely) methodology.

In order to set 2011 MHAC priorities, the members of the MHAC must determine whether or not they have met their priorities and goals set forth in the beginning of the year 2010.

Additionally, if the MHAC members decide to extend the above three priorities into 2011, the data subcommittee will be charged with recommending action steps to implement goals and evaluation.

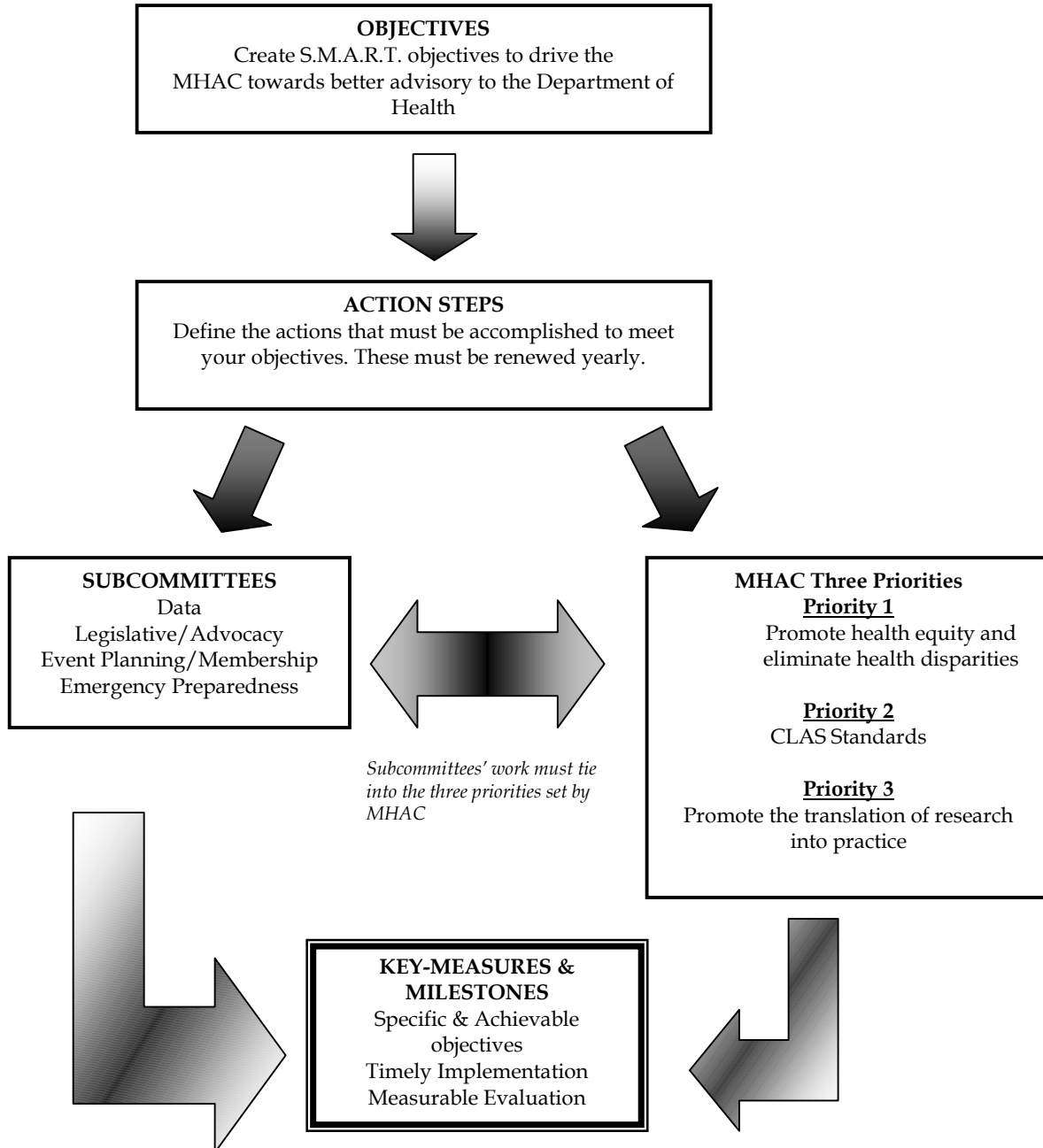


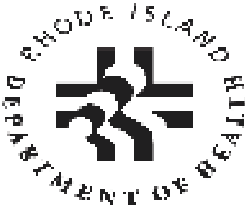
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Community Partners Report:

**YWCA Northern RI**

Wool Blankets to Cover Constitution Hill

Campaign Begins – Residents Encouraged to Conserve Heat and Promote Health

Woonsocket, RI - November 3, 2010

YWCA Northern Rhode Island in partnership with The HeatSmart Campaign of Northwest Woolen Mills, and in collaboration with Rhode Island Department of Health, Rhode Island Public Health Institute, The City of Woonsocket, NeighborWorks Blackstone Valley and LISC Our Neighborhood project announce the Constitution Hill HeatSmart Campaign.

The goal of the campaign is to provide information and tools for community residents to stay warm, save money and live a healthy lifestyle during the winter months. “We provide the tools, the rest is up to the individual,” Deborah L. Perry, YWCA executive director says.

Constitution Hill residents who wish to participate in the HeartSmart Campaign will receive a 84 x 66 machine washable woolen blanket for each member of their household, information packets on how to reduce heating bills, and how to maintain a safe and healthy home during the winter months. Residents are required to supply information from their heating bills to be eligible for participation in the project.

The Constitution Hill HeatSmart Campaign is part of a larger community project to provide tools for residents’ to build capacity to make neighborhoods healthier, and is funded in part through a Rhode Island Department of Health, CDC Community Planning Block Grant.

As part of this effort, and in working with YWCA Northern Rhode Island, The Rhode Island Public Health Institute at Brown University recently went door to door in Constitution Hill and asked people in the neighborhood about their health, what they eat, how they stay fit and what kind of things they do in the neighborhood to stay healthy. The results of this survey will be available within the next few months.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Minority Health Promotion Specialist, Jenn DeBoer

**Next Meeting date: Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Time: 3:00Pm-5:00pm**

**Location: Department of Health, Director’s Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**